

9 October 1956

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

**SUBJECT:** Evaluation of U.S. Military Attache Reporting

**REFERENCE:** Your memo, same subject, dated 3 October 1956

1. This Office considers that U.S. Military Attache reporting is of great value to the NIS Program. In many instances this reporting is the only reliable source for the military topics of the NIS. In the large majority of other cases, the reports from the U.S. Military Attaches add valuable commentary and new information to that obtained from other sources. As a general observation, the quality and comprehensive coverage of U.S. Military Attache reporting with respect to NIS requirements have shown continuing improvement over the past four years.

2. While this Office receives information copies of Military Attache reports relating to NIS requirements, it does not engage in substantive basic intelligence production. In consequence, our records do not reveal specific information on the value of individual post reports in comparison with other posts or with other sources. It can be said, however, that Military Attache reporting is the principal and frequently the only reliable source of new information with respect to the NIS chapters covering basic intelligence of primary importance to the Defense Agencies, (i.e., Chapter II - Military Geography; Chapter III - Transportation, and Chapter VIII - Armed Forces).

3. The improvement in Military Attache reporting on NIS requirements over the past four years is the result of greater NIS coverage, of better collection guidance, and of more comprehensive training and briefing of attaches prior to their assignment to overseas posts. All MA's and some AA's and NA's pass through the Strategic Intelligence School, following which they are given an intensive briefing by the NIS producing components. This Office also holds special briefings for senior attaches on over-all NIS requirements and specific area problems, as well as on the use of the NIS as a general collection guide on basic intelligence. As a result, Military Attaches are going to their posts better equipped to serve the interests of the Intelligence Community in the field of basic intelligence.

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